Assocham's report on power situation

*528. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a countrywide survey undertaken by ASSOCHAM on power situation has disclosed that in some key States, energy deficit slides nearly over 8 per cent to 27 per cent in mid-April, 2006 adversely affecting the industrial production and agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details of the States where this survey was conducted;

(c) whether the lack of fresh investments and modernization coupled with huge transmission losses are responsible for grave power situation in the country; and

(d) if so, whether Government have examined this survey report and if so, the action Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) No survey was conducted by Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM). However, they have issued a press statement on 1st May, 2006 highlighting the shortage of power prevailing in the country during 2005-06.

(b) does not arise.

(c) It is true that investment in transmission and distribution was less than adequate in the past. This has had an impact on technical and commercial losses, which in turn contribute to power shortage.

(d) Question does not arise in view of answer to part (a) & (b) above.

Plan for electrification of villages

529. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI. B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government envisages electrification of all the villages in the country by the year 2009-10;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government propose to electrify villages where grid extension is not likely, through distributed renewable power systems;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action plan of Government to cover such villages in Orissa under the above project, which are yet to be lighted up?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India has introduced Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) in April, 2005 with an aim to electrify all villages over a period of four years.

(b) and (c) Those villages where grid extension is either not feasible or not cost effective are covered by Ministry of Non-coventional Energy Sources (MNES) through non-conventional sources of energy under their Remote Village Electrification (RVE) programme.

The task of identification of remote villages/ham jets for electrification through non-conventional energy sources has been entrusted to Rural Electrification Corporation, who has so far identified 2508 census villages and hamlets in 14 States.

A target of electrification of 5000 villages with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 735 crore has been set for the Tenth Plan. Under the RVE programme of MNES, as on 31.03.2006,2237 remote villages and 594 hamlets have been electrified. As per this scheme, Central Financial Assistance of up to 90% of the benchmark costs of the electricity generation systems was provided.

(d) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Ltd. has so far identified 151 census villages in Orissa where grid connectivity is not feasible for electrification through distributed non-conventional energy sources. The State Government has been asked to prepare necessary proposals for MNES support under the Remote Village Electrification (RVE) Programme.

MNES; has also provided financial support to Orissa Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA) for preparation of DPRs for 1000 un-electrified villages.